

# Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment 2018

The purpose of the Needs Assessment is to provide guidelines and strategies for future acquisition and development of recreational facilities and opportunities for Albemarle County. This is a 10-15 year plan and based on recognized park planning principles and standards, and reflects input from the citizens of Albemarle County, County staff, and Board of Supervisors.

# Prioritized Facilities and Amenities

Facility/Amenity	<b>Priority</b>
Walking, Hiking and Biking Trails	
Youth Athletic Fields - Diamond and Multi-Purpose	
Open Space/Conservation Parks	
Small Neighborhood Parks	
Large Community Parks	High
Aquatic Facilities	, and the second
Off-Leash Dog Parks	
River Access/Boat Launches	
Pavilions and Picnic Shelters	
Indoor Recreation Spaces	
Playgrounds	
Athletic Fields for Adults	Medium
Outdoor Tennis Courts	
Facilties/Amenities for Special Needs	
Gymnastic Facilities	
Competitive Swimming Facilities	
Pickleball Courts	
Outdoor Basketball Courts	Low
Disc Golf	Low
Indoor Soccer Facilities	
Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts	
Skateparks	

### **Key Recommendations**

- ▶ Based on a thorough review of the parks and recreation system and public input, it is recommended that the County pursue further development of specific parks and recreation amenities that meet the needs listed in the *High Priority Program and Facility Rankings* and address the gaps per park type to increase the current level of service (LOS) standard for the projected population in 2032.
- Albemarle County currently provides a total LOS of ONLY 2.41 acres of neighborhood and community parks per 1,000 residents based on the County's population.
- The consulting team is recommending to increase the LOS standard for neighborhood and community parks to 4.0 acres/1,000 population as a goal. This means that as of today, the County is deficient by 172 neighborhood and community park acres. To keep up with the projected population growth, the County will need to develop and add a total of 264 acres of neighborhood and community parks to the system by the year 2032 in order to achieve the recommended standard.
- The top three park needs the County is deficient in 2017 and the future are Neighborhood parks, Community parks, and Sports Complex.
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## Neighborhood Park

- A neighborhood park should be three to 10 acres; however, some Neighborhood Parks are determined by use and facilities offered and not by size alone. The service radius for a neighborhood park is one mile. Neighborhood Parks should have safe pedestrian access for surrounding residents; parking may or may not be included but if included accounts for less than ten cars and provides for ADA access. Neighborhood Parks serve the recreational and social focus of the adjoining neighborhoods and contribute to a distinct neighborhood identity.
- Service radius: 1.0-mile radius
- Length of stay: One-hour experience or less
- Amenities: One signature amenity (e.g. playground, spray ground park, sport court, gazebo); no restrooms unless necessary for signature amenity; may include one non-programmed sports field; playgrounds for ages 2-5 and 5-12; no reservable shelters; loop trails; one type of sport court; benches, small picnic shelters next to play areas.
- Programming: Typically, none, but a signature amenity may be included which is programmed
- Parking: Design should include widened on-street parking area adjacent to park. Goal is to maximize usable park space. As necessary, provide 5-10 spaces within park including handicap spaces. Traffic calming devices encouraged next to park.
- Lighting: Security only.
- Size of park: Typically, Three to 10 acres

### Community Park

- Community Parks are intended to be accessible to multiple neighborhoods and should focus on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Community Parks are generally larger in scale than neighborhood parks, but smaller than regional parks and are designed typically for residents who live within a three-mile radius. When possible, the park may be developed adjacent to a school. Community Parks provide recreational opportunities for the entire family and often contain facilities for specific recreational purposes: athletic fields, tennis courts, extreme sports amenity, loop trails, picnic areas, reservable picnic shelters, sports courts, restrooms with drinking fountains, large turfed and landscaped areas and a playground or spray ground. Passive outdoor recreation activities such as meditation, quiet reflection, and wildlife watching also take place at Community Parks.
- Community Parks generally range from 10 to 75 acres depending on the community. Community Parks serve a larger area radius of one to three miles and contain more recreation amenities than a Neighborhood Park.
- Service radius: One to three-mile radius
- Length of stay: Two to three hours experience.
- Amenities: Four signature amenities at a minimum: (e.g., trails, sports fields, large shelters/ pavilions, community playground for ages 2-5 and 5-12 with some shaded elements, recreation center, pool or family aquatic center, sports courts, water feature); public restrooms with drinking fountains, ample parking, and security lighting. Amenities are ADA compliant. Sport Fields and Sport Complexes are typical at this park.
- Parking: Sufficient to support the amenities; occupies no more than 10 percent of the park. Design should include widened on-street parking area adjacent to park. Goal is to maximize usable park space. Traffic calming devices encouraged within and next to the park.
- Lighting: Amenity lighting includes sport field light standards.
- Other: Strong appeal to surrounding neighborhoods; loop trail connectivity; linked to Regional Park, trail or recreation facility.
- Size of park: Typically, 10 to 75 acres

#### Next Steps

- 1. Requested funding for a Master Plan of Charlotte Humphris Park for FY20, if approved funds available July 1, 2019
- 2. P29 Hydraulic CAC Meeting January 28, 2019 (Presentation & Input from CAC)
- 3. Public Engagement: Now thru Spring
- 4. Online Feedback: Now thru Spring
- 5. Solicit Design Team in late spring 2019 and under contract by July 1, 2019
- 6. Release all findings from Public Engagement & Online Feedback to Design Team
- 7. Design Team produce Conceptual Drawing with Cost Estimates
- 8. Board of Supervisors public hearing and approval
- 9. Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) August 2019 submittal date

# Questions?

